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APR 16 2007

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 4-14 are allowed. Claims 1, 3, 15, 16, 27 are rejected. Claims 2, 17-26, 28 and 29 are objected to.

Applicant herein amends claims 1, 15, and 27 to clarify the subject matter therein claimed. Applicant herein also amends claims 2, 17, 28 and 29 to address objections stated in the Action. Claim 16 is canceled.

Applicant confirms the telephone communication with the Examiner on Friday April 13, 2007, wherein the current amendments were deemed to be patently distinguishable over the cited reference.

Applicant notes that the claim set, as amended, now includes 8 independent claims (i.e. claims 1, 2, 4, 15, 17, 27, 28, and 29) and has 30 total claims. Applicant requests that any additional claim fees that become due are charged as set forth below.

Applicant further notes that this Amendment and Response is being filed two months beyond the three month shortened statutory period, and as such, an extension of two months is requested, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136. Any fees that become due may be charged as set forth below.

Applicant further submits that these amendments add no new matter. Applicant also submits that the Application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the claims as set forth above and the remarks below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of this Application.

Objections to claims: The Action objects to claims 17-26, 28 and 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Action states that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that claim 2 was marked as "objected to" in the Office Action Summary, but was

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omitted on page 3 of the Action. At the telephone interview of Friday April 13, 2007, it was agreed that the status of claim 2 was "objected to".

Applicant responds to the objection by amending claims 2, 17-26, 28 and 29 as suggested in the Action. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Action's objection as to the claims be withdrawn.

Rejections to claims: The Action rejects claims 1, 3, 15, 16, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,238,357 ("Kawaguchi et al.")

As to claims 1, 3, 15, 16, 27 and 30, the Action states that Kawaguchi et al. discloses all features of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Kawaguchi et al. does not disclose that the columns are independently adjustable from one another. Applicant submits that the current amendments to independent claims 1, 15, and 27, to clarify the independent width-adjustability of each of the two or more columns, render the claims patently distinguishable over the prior art. Claims 3 and 30 depend on claims 1 and 27 respectively, and therefore the amendment clarifies these claims as well.

Nothing herein should be deemed as a disclaimer or surrender of any rights, an acquiescence in any rejection, or a waiver of any arguments that might have been raised but were not raised herein or otherwise in the prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves all rights and subject matter with respect to claims being or to be pursued in this or a related application.

CONCLUSION

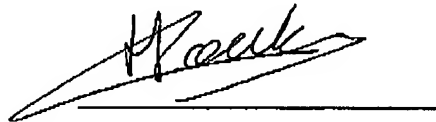
Applicant submits that in view of the foregoing remarks and/or amendments, the application is in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including extension fees, or to charge any additional fees or underpayments, or to credit any overpayments, to the Credit

Card account referenced on the accompanying Credit Card Payment form (PTO-2038). As an alternative, in case the Credit Card cannot be processed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, additional fees, or underpayments, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1001.

Respectfully submitted,

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